

Members:

Rep. Charlie Brown, Chair
Rep. William Crawford
Rep. Susan Crosby
Rep. John Day
Rep. Craig Fry
Rep. Brian Hasler
Rep. Win Moses
Rep. Rolland Webber
Rep. Vaneta Becker
Rep. Robert Behning
Rep. Timothy Brown
Rep. Mary Kay Budak
Rep. David Frizzell
Rep. Gloria Goeglein
Rep. Nick Gulling
Sen. Steven Johnson, Vice-Chair
Sen. Beverly Gard
Sen. Teresa Lubbers
Sen. Morris Mills
Sen. Marvin Riegsecker
Sen. Richard Worman
Sen. Joseph Zakas
Sen. Glenn Howard
Sen. Earline Rogers
Sen. Vi Simpson
Sen. Mark Blade



HEALTH FINANCE COMMISSION

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MEETING MINUTES

Meeting Date: September 30, 1998
Meeting Time: 10:00 A.M.
Meeting Place: Old Post Office and Custom House,
Old Federal Court Room
Meeting City: Evansville, Indiana
Meeting Number: 5

Members Present: Rep. Charlie Brown, Chairperson; Rep. William Crawford; Rep. Brian Hasler; Rep. Susan Crosby; Rep. Vaneta Becker; Rep. Timothy Brown; Rep. Mary Kay Budak.

Members Absent: Rep. Win Moses; Rep. John Day; Rep. Craig Fry; Rep. Rolland Webber; Rep. Nick Gulling; Rep. Robert Behning; Rep. David Frizzell; Rep. Gloria Goeglein; Sen. Steven Johnson, Vice-Chairperson; Sen. Teresa Lubbers; Sen. Morris Mills; Sen. Marvin Riegsecker; Sen. Beverly Gard; Sen. Richard Worman; Sen. Joseph Zakas; Sen. Glenn Howard; Sen. Vi Simpson; Sen. Earline Rogers; Sen. Mark Blade.

Public Testimony on the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP)

Rep. Charlie Brown called the meeting to order at 10:20 A.M. and explained the history of the Children's Health Insurance Program in Indiana and the purpose of the meeting. He explained that legislation is needed in Indiana during the 1999 legislative session to plan for the next four years of the Program. The members of the Commission and staff were introduced and Rep. Becker and Rep. Hasler thanked the Commission for coming to Evansville.

Rep. C. Brown asked Donna Carr, Executive Director, Mental Health Association of

Vanderburgh County, to begin her testimony.¹ Ms. Carr stressed the importance of continuing the current mental health parity provisions of the CHIP program. She stated that all children should be treated the same and receive the same amount of treatment, regardless of whether their problem is mental or physical. Ms. Carr presented many statistics, concluding that early treatment of mental illness in children will assist in prevention of adult problems including homelessness and incarceration due to mental illness. Ms. Carr stated that the recommendations of the Benefits and Cost-saving Subcommittee of the Governor's Panel on CHIP provide less than parity and encouraged the Commission to recommend parity in the final legislation. In response to questions from Rep. C. Brown and Rep. Crawford, Ms. Carr stated that: (a) she was not on the Governor's Panel; (b) when given the choice between providing parity for a lesser number of children and providing less than parity for a greater number of children, she would recommend parity at this point.

There was general discussion among Commission members regarding the following:

- (a) The actuarial analysis that has been performed and the percentage of children covered under CHIP who will need mental health coverage.
- (b) The issue of whether payment for court-ordered services would be made from CHIP, or from the current funding source.
- (c) The issue of blending money from various state, federal, and local sources as in the Dawn Project.

Craig Howerton, Executive Director, Community Health Center of Evansville, discussed the recent renovation and consolidation of functions of the community health center into one physical space through funding granted by the General Assembly. Mr. Howerton stated that increased numbers of patients are being seen at the center, and additional staff has been hired to increase services. Mr. Howerton described CHIP as an opportunity to expand health care to the most vulnerable children and stated that the center is an "outstation" for enrollment of children in CHIP. Mr. Howerton expressed concern regarding the inability of pediatric nurse practitioners to be "primary medical providers" in the Hoosier Healthwise program due to the lack of the program-required full time pediatrician on staff at the center. He stated that he believes this unreasonably creates missed opportunities to serve children.

In response to questions from Rep. C. Brown, Rep. Crawford, and Rep. Becker, Mr. Howerton stated the following:

- (a) Children less than 13 years of age cannot be assigned to the center under the Hoosier Healthwise program due to the lack of a full time pediatrician or family practitioner, though there are nurse practitioners who could see the children.
- (b) He would favor a cut off at 200% of poverty for the CHIP program.

¹A copy of Ms. Carr's testimony is on file in the Legislative Information Center, 200 W. Washington St., Suite 230, Indianapolis, Indiana 46204. The telephone number of the Legislative Information Center is (317) 232-9856.

- (c) 7200 patients were seen at the center this year as of June 30, 1998.
- (d) Average cost per encounter is \$150 with the majority being adult encounters.

Rep. Crawford asked Katie Humphreys, Chairperson, Governor's Panel on CHIP, whether the subcommittee recommendations would allow pediatric nurse practitioners and family practice nurse practitioners to serve as primary medical providers and Ms. Humphreys responded affirmatively.

Cathlin Gray, School Principal, Evansville/Vanderburgh School Corporation, stated that CHIP has had a positive impact in the schools. She explained that there is an approximate 90% poverty rate in her school and that CHIP is providing a resource for those children which was previously unavailable. She explained that the Division of Family and Children in Evansville has sent 24,000 brochures home with school children in Evansville and that further involvement is anticipated. In response to questions from Rep. C. Brown, Rep. Becker, and Rep. T. Brown, Ms. Gray stated the following:

- (a) Her school is a "full service school" meaning that there are various disciplines available at the school to provide services to the children, and that CHIP applications are anticipated to be taken in the school at parent-teacher conferences, etc.
- (b) The collaboration process with Division of Family and Children and other agencies has been occurring since 1994 at her school.

Sue Carson, Vanderburgh County Office, Division of Family and Children, responded to questions from Rep. T. Brown, Rep. Hasler and Rep. C. Brown. She stated that the Vanderburgh County office of the Division of Family and Children is going into schools to educate teachers, school nurses, etc. regarding CHIP. There was general discussion regarding the interest level in schools state-wide and the need for schools in other areas to be involved.

Katie Humphreys stated that the role of schools in Vanderburgh County with CHIP appears to be unique at this point, but that expansion of this type of school involvement across the state would be beneficial. She and Rep. Becker also commented that the responsibility for school involvement resides with each individual school corporation and their school boards and superintendents.

Tom Mix, Children's Special Health Care, commented that mental health problems and physical illnesses many times go hand-in-hand and that a balance of care is needed. He discussed the relatively new social work licensure law's requirements and stated that he believes that resources will be lost due to the new law. Rep. C. Brown requested that Mr. Mix outline his concerns and provide those to Rep. Becker.

Rep. C. Brown informed members that the next meeting of the Commission will be at Ivy Tech State College in Gary, Indiana, on October 20, 1998 at 1:00 P.M.

With no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 11:30 A.M.